

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16, 17, and 21-36 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 16, 21, 22, 24, 28, and 29 are being amended and claims 35 and 36 are being added, under Rule 312. The claim amendments and added claims add no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 16, 21, 22, 24, 28, and 29 are being amended to cosmetically improve the claims without affecting the scope of the claims; and thus, the scope of the doctrine of equivalents applied to the claims should not be limited under the rules of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 535 U.S. 722, 2002 Lexis 3818 (May 28, 2002).

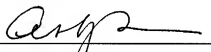
Claims 35 and 36 are being added. The new and amended claims are fully supported by the originally filed Specification and original claims, and add no new matter. Thus, entry of the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed the above-discussed amendments should be entered under Rule 312. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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